

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

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Please delete claims 9 to 15.

(NOTE: For the examiner's convenience, applicants are listing all of the claims and indicating the amended claims.)

Please amend the claims as follows:

- Att
1. (Amended) A starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.
  2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said first fraction comprises starch cross-linked by using sodium trimetaphosphate, phosphorus oxytrichloride or adipic anhydride.
  3. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said first fraction further comprises stabilized starch.
  4. (Amended) A composition according to claim 3 wherein said first fraction is stabilized by hydroxyalkylation.
  5. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said second fraction comprises depolymerized starch obtained by oxidation.
  6. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said second fraction further comprises stabilized starch.
  7. (Amended) A composition according to claim 6 wherein said second fraction is stabilized by acetylation.
  8. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said starch is derived from potato.

9. (Deleted)

10. (Deleted)

11. (Deleted)

12. (Deleted)

13. (Deleted)

14. (Deleted)

15. (Deleted)

Please add the following claims:

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16. A method for preparing a thickened foodstuff comprising mixing a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch with a water-based liquid.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said foodstuff comprises confectionery.

18. Foodstuff comprising a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.

19. A foodstuff according to claim 18 wherein the use of said composition at least partly replaces the use of gelatine in said foodstuff.

20. Confectionery comprising a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.